

Appl. No. 10/707,505
Response Dated June 7, 2006
Reply to Office Action Dated February 7, 2006

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend paragraph [0050] of the specification to correct a grammatical error in the reference numerals. The amendments make the drawings consistent with the specification. No new matter has been added.

[0050] In soft rock, the petals 411a, 411b may completely close and trap the core sample 410 in the coring bit 401. This may be advantageous because of the tendency of unconsolidated or soft formations to fall out of the coring bit. Instead of losing $\frac{3}{4}$ inch (~1.9 cm) to 1 inch (~2.5 cm) of the core sample of an unconsolidated formation, the petals 411a, 411b may close to retain the core sample 410 in the coring bit 401. The only core sample 410 that is lost is that part of the core sample that extends past the petals 411a, 411b ~~511a, 511b~~. In some embodiments, the petals are about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch (~0.6 cm) in length, and about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of the core sample is lost in the closing of the petals. This assists in capturing and retaining core samples of a soft formation that can simply fall out of the coring bit when the sample is taken using a conventional coring bit.

Please amend paragraph [0053] of the specification to correct a grammatical error in the reference numerals. The amendment makes the drawings consistent with the specification. No new matter has been added.

[0053] FIG. 5B shows another embodiment of a coring bit with a retention member ~~521~~ 531 in accordance with the invention. The coring bit 521 includes a hollow coring shaft 523 with a formation cutter 525 at its distal end. A retention member 531 is held in the center opening of the formation cutter by a ring 533 in the formation cutter. In this position, the retention member 531 may enable a core sample (not shown) to enter the coring bit 521, and it may also retain the core sample in the coring bit 521 once the sample is received.